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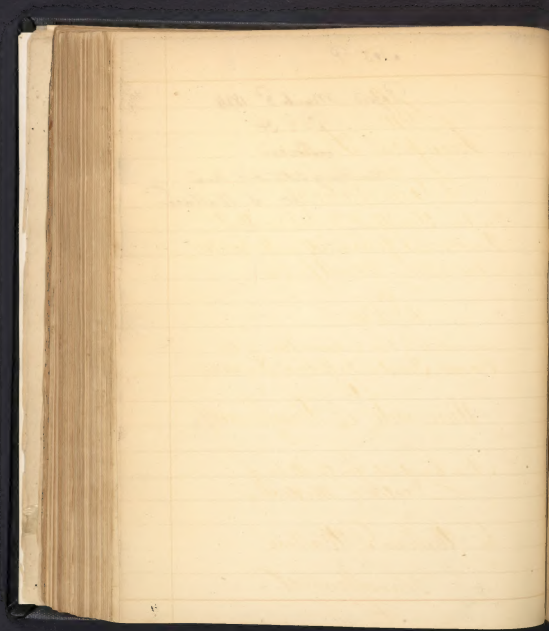
Paid March 3^d 1824

W. E. H

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Permitted of Interest & Fund

W. S. Wallace



An
Inaugural Thesis.

or
Dissertation.

On the Remittent, & Intermittent
Fever, which prevailed in Columbia,
Lancaster County, Pa.
in
1823.

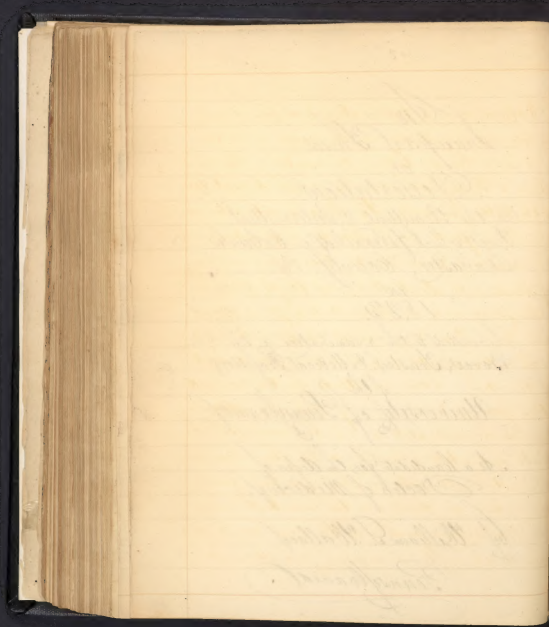
Submitted to the examination of the
Provost, Trustees, & Medical Professors.

of the
University of Pennsylvania.

As a candidate for the degree of
Doctor of Medicine.

By William I. Wallace.

Pennsylvania.



Columbia is a Borough of some considerable note, situated immediately on the margin of the Spes-quehanna River, between the mouth of Chickopee Creek and Turkey-hill Falls, the former distant three and the latter five miles. The River is intersected with a number of pretty large Islands, and interspersed with numerous large Rocks. Our Shore is generally lined with Boats, Arks, and Rafts waiting by this place and are stationed here for a considerable time. The River opposite the Borough is about a mile and a quarter wide, meandering in a south-east direction. Columbia stands on the east side of this famous river, in a very rich and extensively cultivated in the best manner. The Boats and Arks which lined the shore had more or less stagnant water in them of a very offensive smell, which no doubt was the immediate cause of the prevailing epidemic. For that miasmata, or the effluvia arising from stagnant

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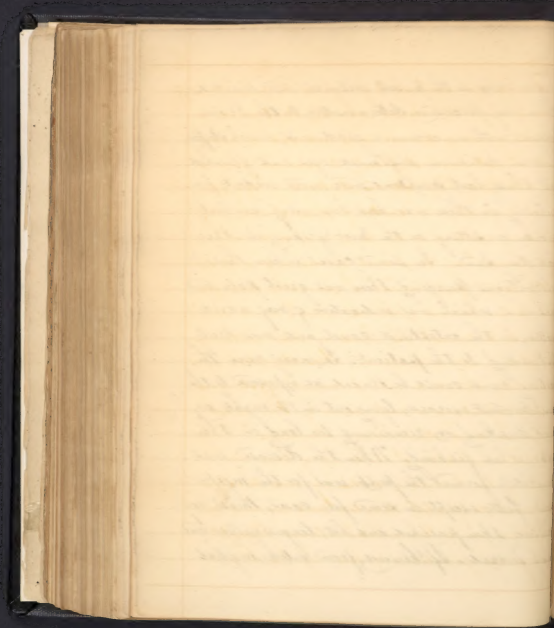
water or marshy grounds when acted upon by heat will produce Remittent and Intermittent, is well known. The fisherman and labouring class of people seem to be for the most part the most subject to it. The fisherman are much exposed (by living in their fish baskets in the night season) to the damp night air without the necessary covering. To these causes might be added violent exercise in poling their Canoes against so turbulent a stream as the St. Lawrence and the practice of continuing in the water such a length of time.

This fever commenced with a slight chill, more or less nausea, vomiting or purging of bile, pain or oppression about the Praecordia, with extreme pain in the head, and spine of the back, or a general aching of the bones. The symptoms were such as generally characterize the ushering in of Malarial Remitting fevers wherever they prevail. But these symptoms, often varied and in cases of much violence, no chill occurred at all,

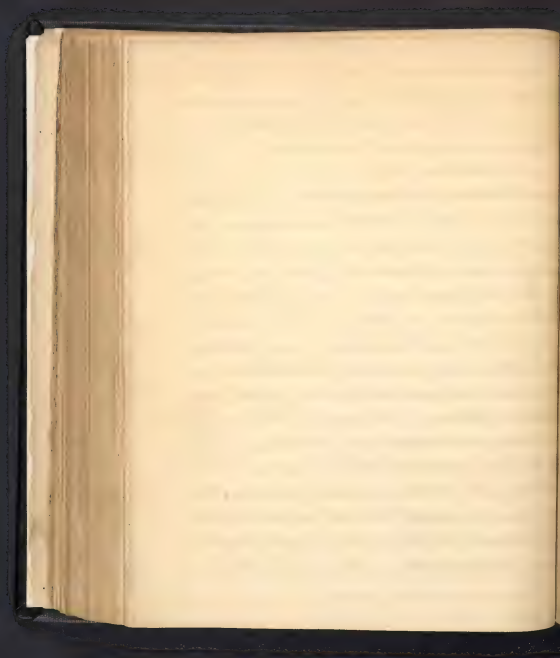
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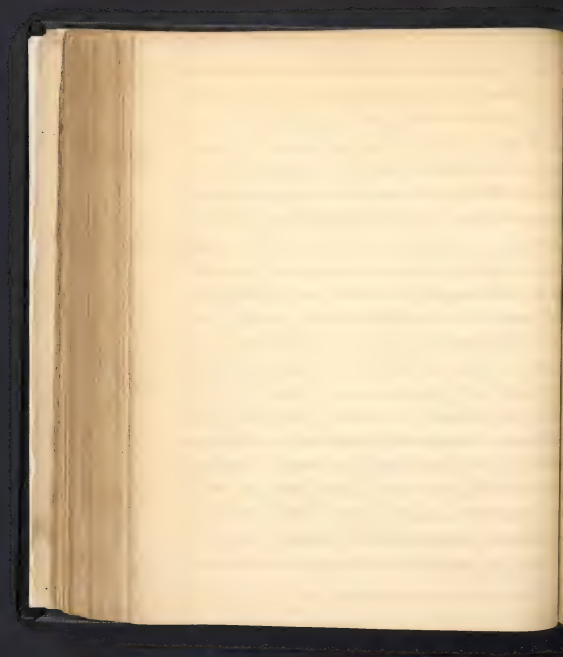
some few cases in the present instance were marked with a very peculiar determination to the brain, attended with uncommon giddiness, much stupor, and even delirium; inflamed eyes and flushed face; these last symptoms were more evident particularly in those who had been riding, violent exercise or sitting on the river fishing in the noon day sun. In some cases where there was bilious purging there was great pain and tenesmus which was indicative of very acrid matter in the intestinal canal and was truly distressing to the patient. In many cases the exciting cause could be traced, as exposure to the sun, violent exercise, lying out in the night air, hard drinking, or remaining too long in the water when fishing. When the disease was completely formed the pulse was for the most part full, except in some few cases, thirst very excessive, skin parched and hot, tongue yellow and much furred. If however from entire neglect



the disease was suffered to progress the remissions became more indistinct and the Continued or Typhus grade of disease was induced which made it extremely difficult to manage, for it was attended with all the distressing symptoms which generally characterize these fevers. If called in early and the pulse was full, I generally began my treatment by opening a vein in the arm from which I generally took from eight to ten ounces of blood, which never seem'd necessary to repeat. The blood in some instances exhibited a ligne appearance. This depletion was universally attended with pleasing effects immediately affording a mitigation of the most alarming and distressing symptoms. In the next administration I made use of was an Emetic of the tartaric of Antimony and the Stomach was completely diluted and washed out with Chamomile tea which always brought away great quantities of bile. If the Emetic



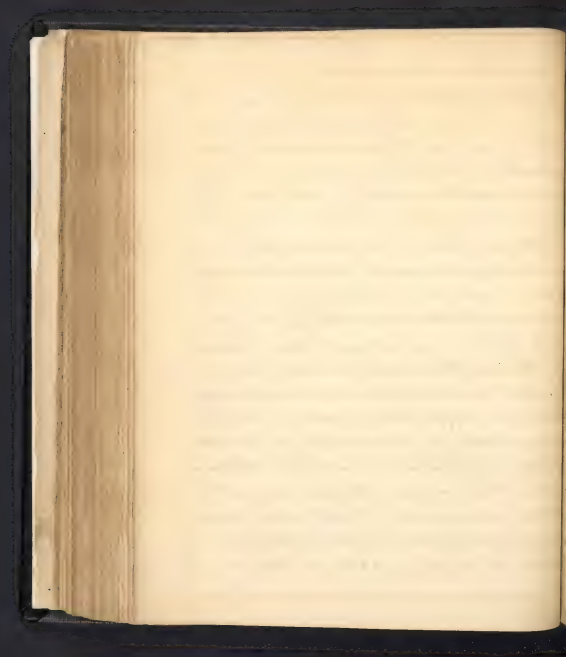
did not determine to the bowels I then gave a Cathartic of Calomel Combined with Rhubarb or, Calap which produced generally three or four, very copious stools which had a very happy result. At night, I gave Calomel grs. ij. combined with Opium grs. and Tart. Emul. ʒss. which produced comfortable rest through the night and in the morning swept away any offensive matter that might be lurking in the bowels. All diarrhoeas through the day in time & the exacerbation of fever, were the Neutral mixture. Calomel combined with Tart. Emul. Alternated every four hours which proved a palatable medicine in reducing the fever. In some cases I continued to administer in this way until the fever was entirely subdued. I do not recollect that the Mercury administered in this way affected the mouth of any but one or two of my patients and then but very slightly. In treating my patients in this manner the fever



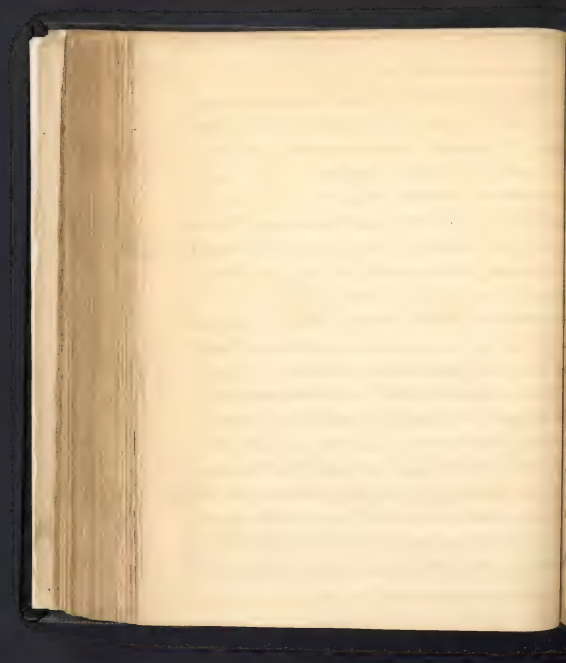
was often subdued in five or six days. What I
mean by the fever being subdued is that a comp-
lete intermission was brought about and the dis-
ease was easily conquered by giving the bark and
serpentaria alone or in combination, or that
invaluable medicine the Sulphate of Quinine.
In some cases I used the Nitro, Tart. Emst. and
Calomel (Antispasmodics) but from what cause I
cannot devise Nitro did not answer my expectation,
my patients got no better, but the fever seemed
to increase and consequently I desisted from
using it. I found Epispastics and Stim-
ulants of great importance when applied
in the proper stage of the disease, the former
after depletion and the apparent inflammatory
symptoms moderated, and the latter accompa-
nied with the former when the disease ad-
vanced to the Typhus Stage. When the
bowels were affected with a tenesmus and
dysenteric symptoms Al. Piceum in the Day



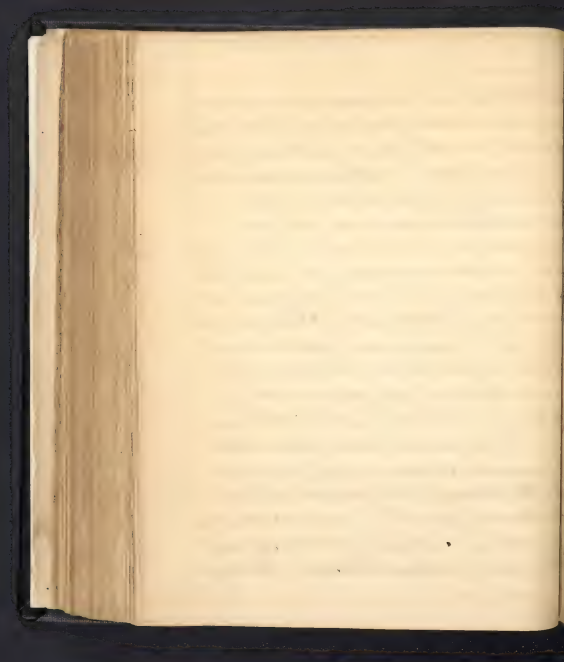
and Calomel and Opium at night was given with
the happiest effect. From the beginning of
October until the 20th of the same month Inter-
mittents were the prevailing form of disease, then
appeared very obstinate & chiefly of the tertian type,
but gave yielded to the common mode of
Practice, viz. Emetics, Cathartics, and use of
the Bark alone. In the complete intermission
I gave a medicine which had a very excellent
effect, after the Stomach and bowels were Clea-
ned. It was composed of ℞ Pulv: Corb: of
Pulv: Rhaiiz: Pulv: Specac: grs xv. To be put into
one pint of Old Rye Whiskey or good Brandy
and well agitated before it was used & of ℥
℥℥ was given every two hours during the inter-
mission. After two or three doses it determi-
ned to the bowels and proved a very active
Cathartic which generally brought away much
offensive matter, and the spirit kept up a
reasonable degree of action, so that its



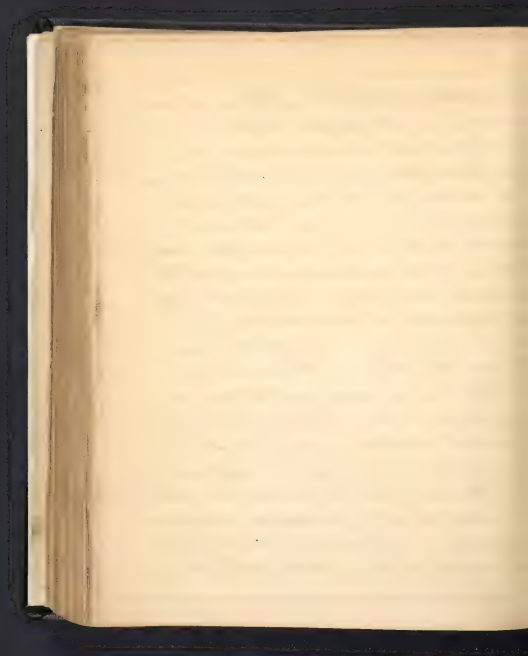
depletion was not overreached, a determination
to the skin was the consequence produced
from the Spicae. I found a small bleeding
in most of the recent cases of this fever arising
from Marsh Miasmata that came under my
notice serviceable, And was careful not to repeat
it the Park until I had procured a complete
intermission. One moderate bleeding at the
commencement I found sufficient, it
converted that dangerous sort of Chill to a complete
shaky which opened to view the complete form
of fever, twenty-five drops of Laudanum was
given in the Cold stage which shortened the
Paroxysm. One case presented to my notice
which gave me much uneasiness. First I
should not manage it with that correct-
ness I desired to do. My Patient aged 22
years. I saw him in the second Paroxysm
which was so violent that it took two or
three persons to hold him, he complained



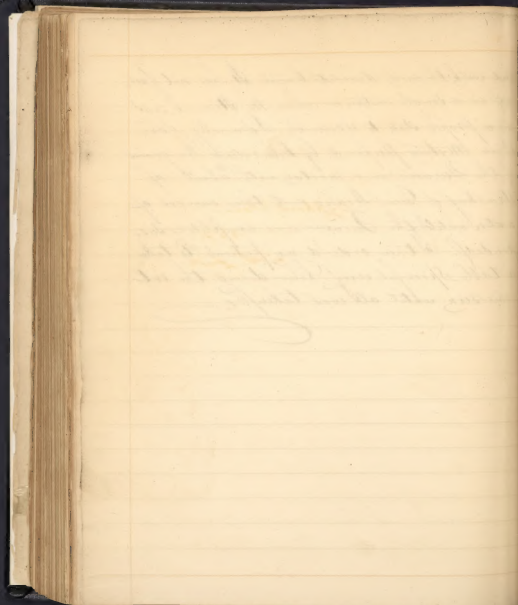
that his limbs and back would come a shudder, it
appeared more like a severe attack of St. Vitus's
Dance than any thing else it lasted nearly two
hours and was follow'd with violent fever, which
was scarce off before the shake reappeared
and in the same manner. In this case I
was afraid to use the lancet, his pulse while
in the cold stage was hardly perceptible, but
in the fever, full and bounding with vol-
ume sufficient to deplete. About the com-
ing on of the next shake I gave him an
Ounce of East. Puncta which operated
gently throwing off a great quantity of
matter of a bluish colour similar to indigo
water, his pulse now became slow and
weak and his Countenance very indicative
of a depletion. Being sensible that a
considerable quantity of morbid matter was
yet with him and fearing to deplete any
more was at a stand what to do. Thinking



(the preparation of Bark, Rhai and Opoeac) as men-
tioned before might be beneficial. I gave him a
wine glass full every hour and procured several
very offensive stools and a perfect intermission
of three hours in which time I applied the
above medicine and overcame the next
expected shake. The strength animation and
looks of my patient recovered wonderfully. His
pulse now became full enough regular and
not too frequent. I now made use of the
Sulphate of Quinine and with the most
decided benefit. — I cannot say
I have had reason to regret treating my
patients as herein mentioned, but fear I
have seen one or two fatal effects produced
by administering the bark too early in
the disease before the Stomach and intes-
tines were properly cleansed or intermission
perfected — I have given the Sulphate
Quinine to upwards of twenty of my patients



and with the most decided benefit. It has not fail-
ed in a single instance where the stomach was
in a proper state to receive it. I generally gave
it in Mixture prepared by triturating the grains
of the Quinine in a mortar with about a
drachm of Gum Arabic and three ounces of
water until the Quinine was completely sus-
pended. I then order'd my patient to take
a table Spoonful every hour during the in-
termission until all was taken. &c



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285 Chemist

rather too speculative for the
subject as a practical one -
but interesting & ingenious.

Typhoid Fever

1824.

J. A. Smith

1847